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Senate introduces recycling package

Lansing –The Senate introduced legislation this week to help develop a comprehensive statewide recycling program to increase Michigan’s recycling rate, Sen. Jud Gilbert (R-Algonac) announced. Michigan currently ranks near the bottom of all states with just a 20-percent recycling rate.

The 13-bill, bi-partisan package is a result of recommendations from the Michigan Beverage Container and Recycling Task Force to stimulate statewide recycling.

“This legislation is a great tool to boost Michigan to the top of the recycling list,” said Gilbert, one of the bill sponsors. “With our Great Lakes and popular tourist destinations, keeping Michigan free of litter will protect the environment and be more inviting for visitors.”

A Recycling Advisory Council would be created to help develop the comprehensive recycling plan, review local recycling programs, encourage new investment by firms that specialize in using recycled goods and make recommendations on new landfill bans.

The legislation would:

- Create a Recycling Advisory Council;
- Create the position of Statewide Recycling Coordinator under Michigan law;
- Allow for an assessment of a new \$3 surcharge on commercial and residential waste going into Type II landfills;
- Create a new Recycling and Waste Diversion Fund for counties to run both new and existing recycling and waste reduction programs;
- Create a new litter incentive program that allows individuals to qualify for a cash award if they provide information leading to a conviction under the anti-litter statute;

(More)

- Create a state anti-litter hotline to allow an individual to make a report on litter violations;
- Create requirements for a comprehensive statewide litter study and require the state to develop and implement a new anti-litter media campaign;
- Make changes to the Adopt-a-Trail, Adopt-a-Park, Adopt-a-Shoreline and Adopt-a-River programs to allow volunteer groups to report on the volume and type of waste they collect; and
- Establish state recycling goals and require the Advisory Council to establish waste diversion goals.

The legislation is currently being considered by the Senate Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs Committee.

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